

Application for Heritage Victoria State Registration

Oriental Hotel, 55 Nelson Place Williamstown

- previously Cox's Family Hotel from 1854 and Barkly Hotel from 1856
- also known as Willy Tavern c 1990

In response to Heritage Victoria's request for further information:

We provide the following

- 1. A statement of significance, which demonstrates significance at the state level.**
- 2. Comparisons with other hotels/buildings across the state that demonstrate significance at the state level.**
- 3. Previous heritage assessments that identify state level heritage significance.**

1. A statement of significance, which demonstrates significance at the state level.

Our research indicates that this is the oldest 3 storey brick hotel in Victoria. It is also claimed that this is the first 3 storey brick structure in Williamstown (referring to all building types not just hotels).

Firstly the historical context and related / referenced documents of the Oriental building are contained in the submitted document and should be read at this stage in the report before looking at the state significance of the location. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT 1

The History of the Coxs Family Hotel Barkly Arms Hotel Oriental Hotel.

Brian Haynes July/ October 2013

In historical context, Williamstown is a place of STATE significance not just a residential suburb but a place of people movement, of arrivals and departures of visitors by ship and establishment of industries and townships for residents. It is also a place of establishing and providing services for the industry of the colony and then the state. The first hotels on Nelson Place, Pt Gellibrand, Williamstown were an integral part of the gateway to the state. Less substantial wooden buildings of the 1830s and 1840s have long disappeared which means the remnant bluestone and brick buildings of the 1850s are the best links today's generation and future generations have with the early European settlement. Heritage tourism is of major importance to Williamstown where people from many places come to see early buildings and street layouts of the original settlement. Not as developed as Melbourne and at a walking scale this place is unique in the world.

The Cox's Family Hotel (later the Oriental) as now proven to be constructed before September 1854 is therefore an important building has leading significance by its date, its intactness and its role in the gateway to the state's settlement, industries, discoveries and activities.

State significance the Town of Williamstown and its early buildings, of which the Oriental is of oldest significance under several criteria.

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Blainey states

"I think the strip of land close to Pt Gellibrand is probably more central to Victorian history than any other strip of land I can think of. Its significance is perhaps second only to Sydney's Circular Quay in terms of Australian history since white settlement."

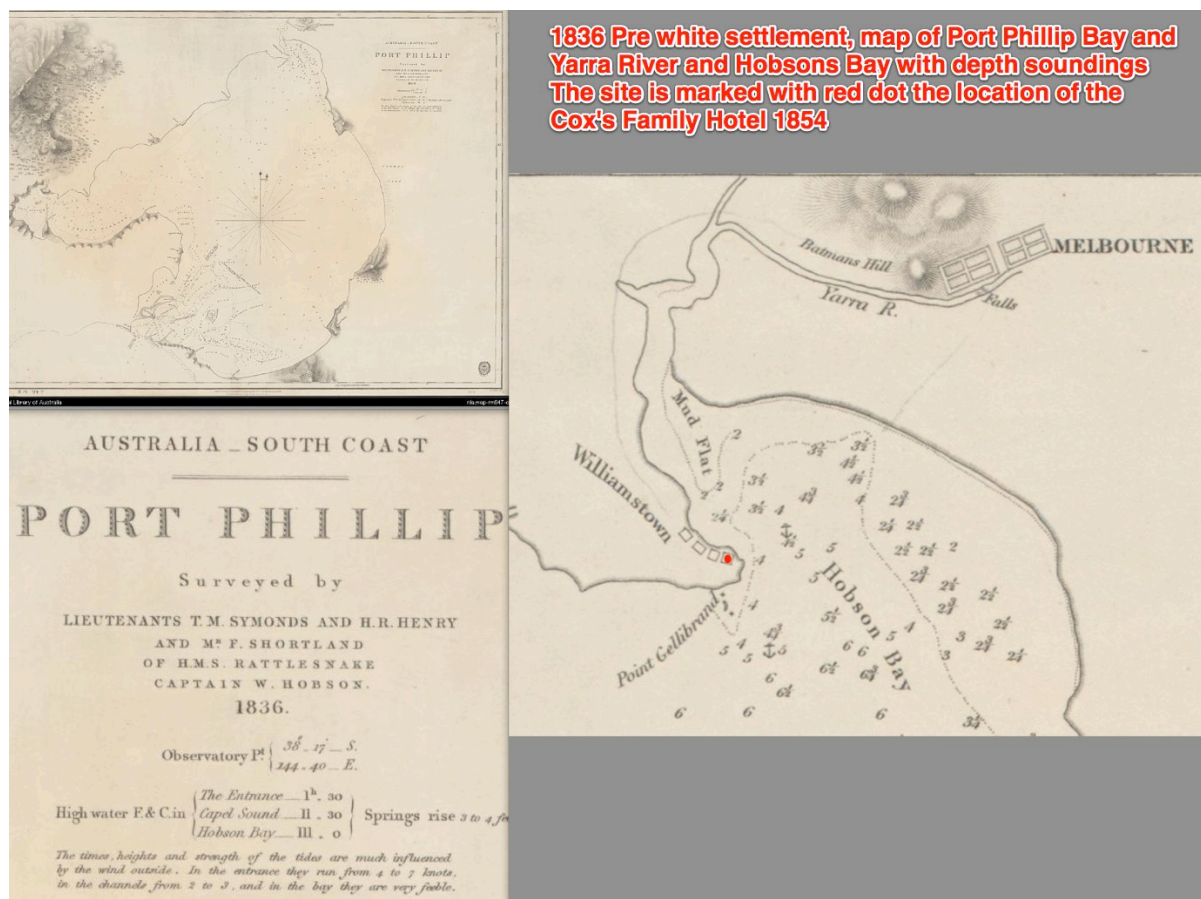
Williamstown's heritage is encapsulated in the Government Survey Heritage Area and is:

- Melbourne's first shipping port;
- A place of travellers to and from the colony and then the state where the provision of accommodation and refreshment was essential after and before long sea journeys not only to Williamstown but to the whole state
- The place of the first European settlement named after King William,
- A significant place of Aboriginal cultural heritage as a place of ceremony and law making and campground / meeting place of first peoples - the Yalukit-willum clan in the Boonwurrung and peoples of the Kulin Nation, the Wurrundjeri and Wandoon Tribes
- The site of the Oriental hotel was on Nelson Place had the seawall on the opposite side of the road and was clearly within 200m of the original Yarra River.
- The birthplace of the Australian Navy 1911 succeeding the colonial navy first ships being 1856,
- Ned Kelly was known to have lived in Williamstown, and prison ships and convict hulks were moored off the point
- Crew abandoned ships at Pt Gellibrand to make a fortune in the gold rush; and
- The site of last combatant surrenders of the American Civil War (the Shenandoah), among many other historically important events.

Before the constitution of the state of Victoria 1836-1855, Williamstown was a port of arrival and departure connected as an outpost to New South Wales which had to be reached by sea with no overland routes. From 1851 the state significance of Williamstown included connection to the early gold rush arrivals coming via ship to Williamstown and landing at Pt Gellibrand until the establishment of Station Pier at Sandridge. After that Williamstown still remained an important port. Many ships were abandoned and de-masted at Point Gellibrand as crew left to seek their fortunes in the goldfields. Travellers needed accommodation and sustenance and Williamstown provided for these temporary needs associated with the large number of hotels in the town. Additionally the port serviced the needs of ships at anchor and later on jetties/piers. The first pier off Nelson Place was Gem Pier 1839. The waterfront businesses grew to accommodate the needs of a growing population and safe shipping around the world.

The Pt Gellibrand Peninsula was where HMS Rattlesnake anchored the first maritime surveys were prepared of Port Phillip Bay and the proposed settlement. The 1836 survey, mapped the location of settlements in Melbourne and Williamstown. The Rattlesnake returned with Governor Burke of NSW (and Port Phillip Bay) in March 1837 and the maps of Port Phillip Bay formed the base maps which were updated in later surveys until mid 1850s. The 1836 map of Pt Gellibrand shows the original settlement blocks and the block to the south east on the map is the marked location in red of where the Cox's Family Hotel (Oriental Hotel) would be built around 20 years after settlement.

Many industries were associated with the port of Williamstown, agriculture, pastoral, sheep, wool, railways giving accessibility to the burgeoning city and the state of Victoria, brewing, convict accommodation and prison labour off the point, early public buildings of King Williams Town which could have been the capital if fresh water supplies had been more abundant, shipbuilding/repairs, first telegraph offices and also the gold rush were all significant to the state not just the town.



This gave a rationality to Williamstown having a large number of hotels associated with the temporary accommodation and substance of the early arrivals to the state and the social places for crew and shipping trades. Hotels were also used for early morgues prior to designated Morgue Buildings and coroners hearings.

The 1840s were a time of depression and the materials used for early dwellings and hotels in Williamstown were generally wooden. It was not until the 1860s that brick manufacturing occurred in Melbourne and buildings constructed in brick in Williamstown were uncommon. The bricks used in the 1850s would have come from NSW or other places probably as ballast on ships which were involved in exporting goods from the colony. The local building stone was and is bluestone which is evidenced in the many churches, public buildings and pubs and hotels built from mid 1950s. The Pier Hotel (123 Nelson Place) c 1854 is bluestone 2 storey as is the Prince of Wales (1 Nelson Place) 1856 – both on Nelson Place. The other Nelson Place Hotel between the Oriental (55 Nelson Place) and the Pier is the Old Royal Hotel 85 Nelson Place (50 m from the Oriental). The Royal Hotel is on the Heritage Register H1770 and is 3 storeys but it was not constructed in brick until the 1890 and although “Established 1853” is displayed on the facade – it was originally a wooden building which was later replaced by an ornate late Victorian brick building. Citation Appendix 1. Therefore on Nelson Place, which is an important “main street” of mid 19th century Williamstown, the hotels are

Prince of Wales – original bluestone 2 storey and c 1856; Cox’s Family Hotel (Oriental) – original and brick 1854 (or before); Royal Hotel- replacement of wooden hotel with 1890’s brick building; Pier Hotel –original bluestone 2 storey 1854 (note some reconstruction after fire damage). For arrivals by ship this was their “first impressions of life on land” in Victoria.

Corner hotels were typical of many sites in Williamstown and in particular the original four blocks of the Hoddle St Layout, but what is really significant as we describe below is this is the oldest hotel in Williamstown of any height & of any construction materials still standing. This is an example for local people interested in heritage but also the many visitors from all over Melbourne, the state, interstate and international who are part of the large numbers who are tourists visiting HERITAGE Williamstown to look at its early history. It is first brick three storey hotel in Williamstown, in Melbourne and in Victoria. In Williamstown it was the first 3 storey brick building of any type constructed. Public buildings were generally of blue stone and dwellings and early hotels were almost without exception wooden. For this reason many of the early dwellings and hotels have disappeared through wood rot or fire or just been replaced with more substantial buildings. The architectural design is post Georgian in style, which is typical of other 1850s early hotels in Victoria in Geelong, Portland and the city of Melbourne and like the early hotels in NSW and Tasmania. The Oriental is unique in being 3 storey brick. Reference is made to the Belvedere/Eastern Hill Hotel which appears as a three storey brick hotel today and is from a similar era 1853/4 but the 1958 National Trust citation on which the State Register relies states that this building was initially a two storey hotel -Appendix 2.

It is also noted that for early gold rush travellers the hotel ruin in Bacchus Marsh is state listed Appendix 3. Association with travellers going to the gold fields is similar to that of Williamstown with many overseas arrivals at Pt Gellibrand who moved on to the gold fields. Add to that the archaeological significance of the aboriginal cultural heritage in Pt Gellibrand. The location of the hotel and its grounds is within 200m of the original waterway of the Yarra River which gives the Oriental Hotel similar archaeological significance to the Rockbank Hotel, which in its citation refers to being situated by the bridge of a river. Rockbank Inn has been listed despite being a ruin since the 1960s, the Oriental is in danger of becoming a ruin as the current owners have done nothing to maintain the building in the last decade. This is why an urgent decision is needed to protect the heritage of this building and register on the state list. Appendix 4 provides some material pertinent to the aboriginal significance of Pt Gellibrand.



Knopwoods Retreat Tavern & Wine Bar
Hotel established in 1829.

39 Salamanca Place,
Hobart
Tasmania 7000

03 62235808

There is also a real likelihood that as family research records and diaries of early arrivals in Victoria are revealed by widespread interest worldwide in genealogy and family histories, there will be new evidence of travellers arrival in Williamstown and being accommodated at Cox’s Family Hotel/ Barkly Hotel and then from the 1880s in the Oriental Hotel. The roof of the hotel provided a vantage point

for viewing Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh's visit in 1867 – an event likely to be recorded in letters to distant family. All of this has the potential to add to the provenance and state/national/international significance of the hotel. Nationally the hotel most like the Cox's Family Hotel is the Knopswood Hotel, Salamanca Place Hobart (c 1829) a square three storey hotel similarly near a place of shipping arrivals. We have been unable to find any comparable hotel in Victoria

Proof that the 1954 building is the same as the building today is evidenced in the map above from the Surveyors field book. This map is referenced in an expert report to VCAT by Peter Lovell of Lovell Chen June 2013 page 11 (Proceeding P625/2013). It shows and it was accepted in VCAT that the measurements on the field survey of the building at that time are in "links". The building measurement along Nelson Place frontage is 60 links, which converts to 12.07 meters – this is the same frontage measurement as the current building (2013). A small mark on the survey (noted by the VCAT member Mr Cimono) on the Ann St frontage shows a 60 link measurement also indicating the square building of today. The remainder of the rectangular footprint forms the single storey out buildings. A miscalculated frontage had been referenced in the Lovell Chen report, which assumed measurements were in feet not links. 60 feet frontage would have indicated a larger hotel than the current Oriental. However it was the practice of surveyors at that time to use links (via a link chain) for measurements. This fact was also verified by measurements between roads Nelson Place, Ann St, Little Nelson Place (now Aitken St) and Morris St (now Kanowna St) on the original fuller view of the survey presented to the members at the VCAT hearing. These road measurements have not changed since the Hoddle Street Plan for Williamstown 1838 to today. Although the VCAT case is on-going and adjourned to 14th October, no findings have yet been published. The matters to do with the Oriental Hotel have been completed with four expert witnesses, Helen Larder for Council, Michael Taylor for Save Williamstown, Peter Lovell and Bryce Rayworth for the applicant/developer/owner of the site.

The 1854 age of the hotel was accepted by Hobsons Bay Council based on the Avery Report, and objectors based on Brian Haynes research but initially disputed by Rayworth and Lovell.

However, the correction to the Lovell Chen report re date was accepted by the barrister Mr Finanzio, representing the building owner/developer/applicant at VCAT on 5th July 2013. Mr Finanzio stated that the applicant now accepts the provenance of the building as 1854 and will not present any more argument about 1854 being incorrect, and Hobsons Bay Council's previous citation was wrong in stating the building to be 1871. Hobsons Bay Council have been asked by the submitter about changing the citation on the Oriental Hotel given the proof of an earlier construction date but have indicated that because of planning scheme amendment advertising requirements, they prefer to accumulate wrong citations or new citations and present a group of applications together. However they will be changing the citation at the next round of Heritage updates based on the Alves report quoted and submitted with this application.

In 1854, known as the Establishment Period for Victoria, this was the largest building in Williamstown when built, as demonstrated in the panoramic lithograph [identify lithograph] which shows the hotel dominating the skyline. At the time Nelson Place was the main street in Williamstown. A detailed history by Local Historian Brian Haynes is attached for fuller information and historical documentation about the hotel.

The first 3 storey building in Williamstown, as evidenced by artistic and photographic evidence:

The R Quarrill and Co lithograph, which was created in mid-1854. This is known to be an accurate representation of the streetscape at the time, and clearly shows the hotel with three storeys and the same fenestration as today.



light house 1849
(timeball tower)

Oriental
hotel 1854

Gem pier and
orig 1839 pier

unfinished
Pier hotel
1854

Ship Inn 1844,
Victoria house 1849 &
Albion hotel 1840

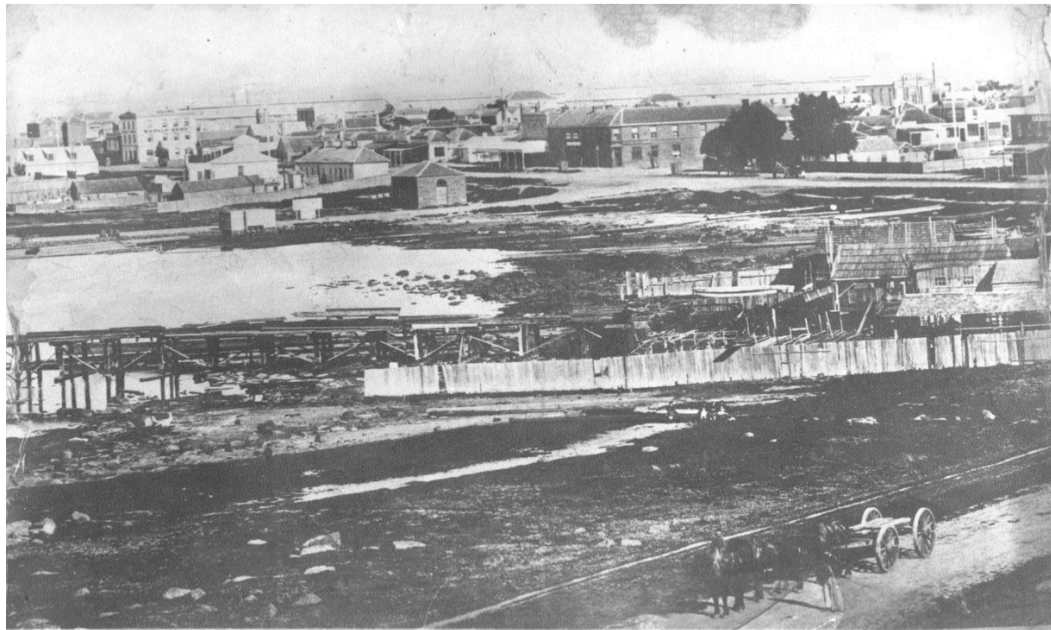
convict
working
party

convict
stockade

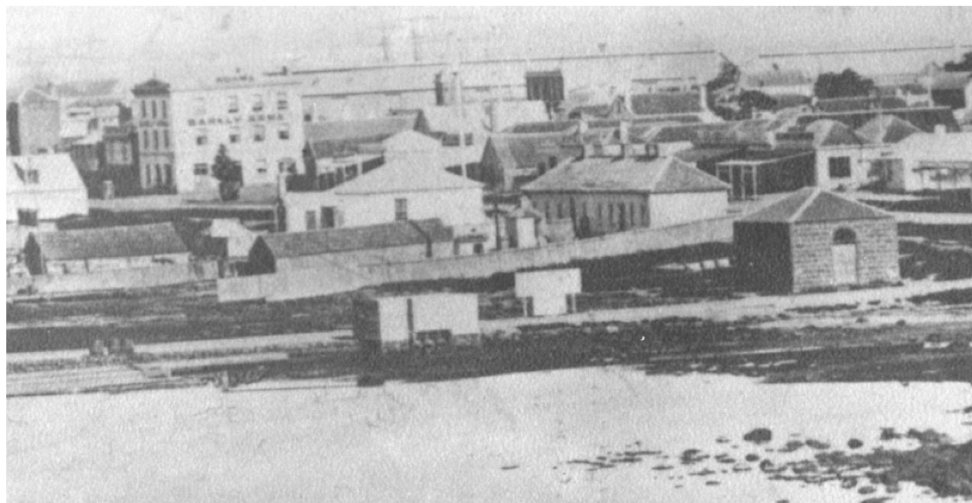
Zoomed in views are in the Brian Haynes report

The Andrew Ryder photograph of 1863 which clearly shows the hotel emblazoned with the name Barkly Arms Hotel, and the proprietor's name Adams (Reuben Adams) in the same three storey form as today, with the same fenestration, double streetfront pediment and austere post Georgian style.

In 1863 Andrew Rider took a photograph of the hotel which clearly shows the subject hotel. On the side wall " Barkly Arms Hotel" and on the roof pediment Adams, the owner publican



NELSON PLACE 1863



The photograph of 1873/1874 sourced in the Mitchell Library State Library of NSW shows the corner pubs on Nelson Place Block 1 and as a glass positive it can be zoomed into a very close view of the Oriental Hotel (then called the Barkly Hotel) revealing original details which would allow proper heritage reconstruction of relatively unchanged façade, window treatments and placements, chimneys and ornamentation of pediment treatment.



A close up of this photograph. reveals the same structure, including the multi paned side window as today.



THREATS to the Oriental Hotel 2013

The owner/developer is seeking to demolish the building and replace totally with new construction. The argument presented for it not being worthy of preservation are: lack of intactness which will be detrimentally effected by repairs to out of plumb walls; not original but replacement building (disproved in the VCAT P625/2013 hearing; in danger of collapse; no significance in design; no significance in purpose in the community other than a corner hotel of which there are many. The developer is not considering retention of facades.

It is acknowledged that the current state of the Hotel is hugely deteriorated through neglect for the last decade and in the last year has been declared dangerous and surrounded with protective fencing. However the issue of structural repair without damage to facia has been dealt with in the VCAT hearing – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT 2. We submit the report by Tristan Halls expert witness on the structural repairs who detailed how to prevent collapse and retain the outer walls by adding steel structural support to the inside of the walls. With this system walls out of plumb can be retained as with the Leaning Tower of Pisa where the load bearing is taken from the old walls and transferred to steel structural beams. This leaves stucco on the walls less damaged and more repairable than trying to re-establish structural integrity in the original walls. The redevelopment can then either try to refurbish existing internal rooms or provide a structure on which new internal spaces can be created. The result in terms of “look of the area” is that the intact façade which relates to the heritage of the area is retained. Ie First three storey brick building in Williamstown, oldest surviving hotel in Williamstown, oldest three storey brick hotel in the state of Victoria. The danger of collapse is no longer a reason to demolish. The age of the building sits it firmly in an appropriate era to its design, Victorian Colonial Georgian Style. Reconstruction of the façade can be done with reasonable historical accurately from photographic and artistic records. Although not as good as original architectural drawings, it appears the Oriental Building which has little more than added verandas is in good position to have its façade reconstructed. As explained in the paragraphs below about comparable state listed buildings, none of them appear to have any accurate detail of exact construction.

2. Comparisons with other hotels/buildings across the state that demonstrate significance at the state level.

Rare examples of 2 storey post Georgian style hotels in Victoria, compared to Oriental:

2.1 The Fyansford Hotel, Geelong of two storeys, in the colonial Georgian style, also erected in 1854.

Fyansford Hotel HO744 Geelong	Cox's Family Hotel (Oriental Hotel) Williamstown
Built 1854 Corner building	Existed prior to September 1854 Corner Building
Victorian Heritage Register – registered Citation Appendix 5	National Trust – file only Hobsons Bay Heritage overlay H2011 – Govt Survey Heritage Precinct listing as contributory only Wrongly assigned construction date 1871, became Oriental 1881 and wrongly attributed fire which destroyed predecessor Barkly Hotel 1870 and reference to replacement hotel. Recent research shows no fire effected this hotel, buildings close by were effected and some singing of hotel windows only. Rate books continued proving no interruption through destroyed building.. See the Brian Haynes history and Alves Report & acceptance by owner of 1854 date – VCAT 2013
Near junction of rivers Barwon and Moorabool and river crossing	Near junction of Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay. Area recorded with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, place of ceremony, law making, camp Yalukit-willum – Reference Ian D Clarke – First People of Hobsons Bay
Landmark association historic district	Landmark association with Pt Gellibrand original settlement of Melbourne City area from 1836. Hotel significant in landscape – see the Quarrill painting
2 storey brick hotel	3 storey brick hotel and first three storey brick building in Williamstown
Transitional Colonial Georgian Style with recent bottle shop	Transitional Colonial Georgian Style with added vernadachs otherwise intact original see picture of Barkly detail 1873
Photographic evidence on HV file – 20th C photos only	Photogrphaic evidence as supplied allowing detail record 1863 and 1873 and lithograph 1854, photo near waterfront 1910 and series of photos 20thC through to intact buildings1998 (Hobsons Bay Council) and neglected building to date under current owner
Characteristic mid 19th century public house	Characteristic large hotel mid 19th century with original square corner to street. Some alteration to doorways only. Windows placements as in

	original 1854 drawings
Architect unrecorded Original Publican recorded	Full history of land ownership prior to building and original owner of Cox's Family Hotel, through changes to name and ownership
Events – none recorded	Events – use of roof for observation deck Prince Albert's visit to Melbourne 1867
Symmetrical fenestration	Symmetrical fenestration and record of pediment in photographs and detail 1873

2.2 The Victoria Guest House in Portland, of two storeys, in the colonial Georgian style, of 1853.

Victoria Guest House B0880 Town of Portland	Cox's Family Hotel (Oriental Hotel) Town of Williamstown
Built 1853 Not a corner building	Existed prior to September 1854
Victorian Heritage Register – registered Appendix 6	National Trust – file only Hobsons Bay Heritage overlay H2011 – Govt Survey Heritage Precinct listing as contributory only BUT wrongly dated and style not identified as Georgian
2 Storey Bluestone – unknown architect Family Hotel which became a boarding house in 1864 History undocumented One of the earliest constructed hotels Typical colonial Georgian style from first years of settlement Still functions as a guesthouse	3 Storey Brick Family hotel with accommodation of up to 16 rooms became a licenced hotel and later a night club History documented. The earliest remaining hotel in Williamstown Typical colonial Georgian Style from first years of settlement Derelict since 1990s but evidence available for appropriate reconstruction.
20 th Century photographs in citation	19 th C photos and Lithograph of available for citation

2.3 The London Inn in Portland, of two storeys, in the colonial Georgian style, of 1842.

London Inn HO237 Town of Portland	Cox's Family Hotel (Oriental Hotel) Town of Williamstown
Built 1854 – started 1842 Corner building	Existed prior to September 1854 Corner Building
Victorian Heritage Register – registered Appendix 7	National Trust – file only Hobsons Bay Heritage overlay H2011 – Govt Survey Heritage Precinct listing as contributory only BUT wrongly dated and style not identified as Georgian
Description of history of Portland – sealing, whaling, pastoral hinterland. Township established 1840	Township established 1936
Started as single storey mid 1840s, 2 storey 1853, billiard rooms and assembly rooms 1962	3 storey brick Family hotel started 1854, used by coroner 1854
History of land purchase set out	History of land purchase set out – see Brian Haynes report and Alves report
Favoured placed for shipping passengers with reference to adverts	Accommodation for travellers / shipping passengers / arrivals for gold rush. References to adverts. Cook advert – liberal salary
First meeting place of Council 1856	Morgue and place for coroners hearings before establishment of Williamstown Morgue
The London Inn, Portland, is of architectural significance as a representative example of a Victorian Georgian style hotel. Georgian styles remained strong in Portland into the 1850s owing to the dominance of architectural influences from Tasmania, where the majority of early settlers had originated.	Cox's Family Hotel is of architectural significance as a representative example of a Victorian Georgian style hotel. Georgian styles in 1850s had architectural influences from Tasmania and NSW colonies in the establishment and prior to more decorative architecture with the prosperity of the gold rush.
The London Inn is of historical significance for its associations with the early history of Portland and for its important contribution to the large collection of historic buildings in this early seaport town.	Cox's Family Hotel/Barkly Hotel/Oriental Hotel is of historical significance for its associations with the early history of Williamstown and for its important contribution to the large collection of historic buildings in this early seaport town.

2.4 The Former Oddfellows Hotel Lonsdale St Melbourne, of two storeys, in the colonial Georgian style, of 1842.

Former Oddfellows Hotel Lonsdale St B5257 Melbourne	Cox's Family Hotel (Oriental Hotel) Town of Williamstown
Built 1853 Corner building	Existed prior to September 1854 Corner building
Victorian Heritage Register – local significance Appendix 8	National Trust – file only Hobsons Bay Heritage overlay H2011 – Govt Survey Heritage Precinct listing as contributory only BUT wrongly dated and style not identified as Georgian
2 storey hotel converted from 2 storey house No reference to construction materials Social history quoted of use by Chinese cabinet makers. Historical record of first licensee Intact interior Remnant of poor quarter 19 th Century Melbourne Government owned building	3 storey brick hotel Full historical record of ownerships/ licencees
20 th Century photographs in citation	19 th C photos and Lithograph of available for citation

The Cox's Family Hotel (Oriental) is the only three storey colonial Georgian hotel known in Victoria.

The submitter has not been able to identify another example of a three storey colonial Georgian style hotel in Victoria. The Eastern Hill Hotel in Fitzroy, which is on the Heritage Victoria Register, is currently three storeys, but was originally of two storeys according to the 1958 National Trust citation in Appendix 1.

3. Previous heritage assessments that identify state level heritage significance.

The previous assessment H0211 has listed it as a contributory building only in the Government Survey Heritage Area of Williamstown. Appendix 8. Described as c 1871 and of local historical and aesthetic significance to Hobsons Bay, this has allowed a state significant building to go unrecognised.

There are two important factors, which have been missed in the previous assessment which have subsequently been corrected in the Lesley Alves report commissioned by Hobsons Bay Council in 2012.

The factors are:

- The age 1854 and the perspective of that age to Williamstown and the State
- The style of Colonial Georgian was unrecognised even though typical of the 1850s

Comparing with other HV listed buildings in the state where the style of the building is Colonial Georgian shows there are similar and greater recorded detail for the Oriental Hotel to the others. The London Inn is the only citation providing more detail but none of the citations have such comprehensive photographic and artistic evidence from the 19th century. There are only 5 examples in the state listing of which 4 are state significance and one local. By not recognising the style in the earlier citation, the era and significance of the building was lost. The plain style should have been recognised as not typical of the 1870s / 1880s in the citation and questioned.

Secondly the record of a fire destroying the building should have been more carefully checked as records show more accurately that adjacent buildings were destroyed but only windows of the Oriental were damaged. No rebuilding could have occurred as the rate records show continuity of rating. Photographic evidence is probably better for this building and the Prince of Wales than any other hotel in Williamstown. In particular the Mitchell Library photograph when magnified show details which prove that the early building has continued to today with the only likely changes in the small panes of glass to full frame windows. However there has been no change to position and pattern of window. The lack of decoration around the windows is exactly the same and typically Georgian.

Thirdly the age and materials used puts it in a context of significance to the whole of Williamstown and what the early buildings were constructed from and have disappeared through dilapidation and fires.

This is a substantial building made of brick, a building material extremely rare in Williamstown's early days and when labour was in very short supply, due to the Gold Rush, and the lack of a local brick works.

The social context includes its use as a viewing point for the of Prince Albert's arrival in 1867. This is evidenced in the advertisements...[Argus 21st and 23rd November 1867]

It is the oldest existing building thought to be used as a morgue in Williamstown, and if so one of the earliest in the state. See the reference of October 1854, which refers to an inquest being held at the Cox Family Hotel {Argus 20th September 1854 AND 6th October 1854 }. It was common practice at the time to store bodies in the cellars of hotels awaiting autopsy or burial, where morgues were not available. The Williamstown Morgue, which is on the Heritage Victoria Register, was completed around 1859 or 1860.

Built as a substantial building to service the port trade and the Gold Rush clientele when many of the surrounding commercial buildings were built insubstantial, of a temporary nature and of timber.

Formed an integral part of the historic port precinct of Williamstown for 137 years. Hotels in the nineteenth century were as important to the infrastructure of a working port as the chandler, or the stevedores. The Oriental Hotel is intact and needs to be preserved as a part of this historic precinct. Cities around the Australia and the world cherish their historic port precincts – from Circular Quay and the Rocks in Sydney, to Salamanca Place in Hobart or Fremantle in Western Australia. For an overseas example we can look at Fishermans Wharf in San Francisco. In Victoria we could note the port precinct of Geelong or even the historic inland port precinct of Echuca.

Proposals by developers to demolish an important building which should be preserved for posterity should be prevented and the walls if strengthened by structural steel bracing can ensure a continuance of the oldest pub and oldest three storey building in a place of significance to the history of Victoria and the nation.

Save Williamstown

Wednesday, 9 October 2013